

Proposal Item: 1
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

Status:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017
Proposed Amendment to the
Bylaws of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Subpart B

Motion

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 6 – Election of Trustees by striking, inserting, and re-lettering the following:

Current Wording

Article IX – Board of Trustees
Section 6 – Election of Trustees

- a) To be eligible for election, each nominee must appear before the delegates at the World Service Business Conference and address the assembled delegates from three to five minutes and answer questions from the floor. No new nominations will be accepted from the floor.
- b) To be elected, each trustee nominee must receive a majority vote of the delegates present and voting at the time of the election.
- c) If more than one ballot is necessary for any position, any candidate having less than one-fifth of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically on subsequent ballots, except that the top two candidates must remain. If no candidate has less than one-fifth of the votes, the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be dropped from the ballot.
- d) Once there are only two candidates remaining for any trustee position and neither candidate receives a majority after two additional ballots are taken, a vacancy is declared. The Board of Trustees will fill this vacancy at the second regular board meeting after Conference.

Proposed Wording

Article IX – Board of Trustees
Section 6 – Election of Trustees

- a) To be eligible for election, each nominee must appear before the delegates at the World Service Business Conference and address the assembled delegates from three to five minutes and answer questions from the floor. No new nominations will be accepted from the floor. No candidate may run for more than one position.
- b) To be elected, each trustee nominee must receive a majority vote of the delegates present and voting at the time of the election.
- c) If more than one ballot is necessary for any position, any candidate having less than one-fifth of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically on subsequent ballots, except that the top two candidates must remain. If no candidate has less than one-fifth of the votes, the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be dropped from the ballot.
- d) Once there are only two candidates remaining for any trustee position and neither candidate receives a majority after two additional ballots are taken, a vacancy is declared. The Board of Trustees will fill this vacancy at the second regular board meeting after Conference.

Current Wording (continued)

Article IX – Board of Trustees
Section 6 – Election of Trustees

- e) The election at WSBC of the next category of trustee shall occur after the candidate(s) in the previous category have been elected or the position(s) have been declared vacant. The order of election shall be: regional trustee(s), virtual services trustee, general service trustee(s).
- f) The newly elected trustees shall take office immediately at the conclusion of the Conference.

Proposed Wording (continued)

Article IX – Board of Trustees
Section 6 – Election of Trustees

- ~~e) The election at WSBC of the next category of trustee shall occur after the candidate(s) in the previous category have been elected or the position(s) have been declared vacant. The order of election shall be: regional trustee(s), virtual services trustee, general service trustee(s).~~
- f) The newly elected trustees shall take office immediately at the conclusion of the Conference.

Submitted By

Board of Trustees

Cyndy L., Bylaws Committee Chair

Contact WSO for maker's contact information.

Intent

Item a): To clarify that a candidate may not run for both region and general service trustee in the same year.
Item e): The reason for this rule is to cover the situation when a person could be considered for more than one position. Current practice is all nominations are closed prior to the Conference, and no nominations are taken from the floor. Delaying the voting for the general service trustees until after the region trustees are elected is unnecessary.

Implementation

Update OA, Inc. Bylaws

Cost

None.

Rationale

In 2016, a new voting procedure was introduced. All votes were cast and collected with no interruption. The process was simple and well organized. This change will bring the bylaws and the procedure into agreement for future Conferences.

History

2013 – Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX, Section 6 (paraphrased)

Add virtual services trustee to the election order. (Adopted on consent)

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: 2
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

Status:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017
Proposed Amendment to the
Bylaws of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Subpart B

Motion

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups, Section 1 – Definition by striking, inserting, and re-lettering the following:

Current Wording

Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups
Section 1 – Definition

These points shall define an Overeaters Anonymous group:

- a) As a group, they meet to practice the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service.
- b) All who have the desire to stop eating compulsively are welcome in the group.
- c) No member is required to practice any actions in order to remain a member or to have a voice (share at a meeting).
- d) As a group they have no affiliation other than Overeaters Anonymous.
- e) It has affiliated as an Overeaters Anonymous group by registering with the World Service Office.

Proposed Wording

Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups
Section 1 – Definition

These points shall define an Overeaters Anonymous group:

- a) As a group, they meet to practice the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service.
- b) Use of a meeting format that includes the OA Preamble, Twelve Steps, and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous.
- ~~b)c)~~ All who have the desire to stop eating compulsively are welcome in the group.
- ~~e)d)~~ No member is required to practice any actions in order to remain a member or to have a voice (share at a meeting).
- ~~d)e)~~ As a group they have no affiliation other than Overeaters Anonymous.
- e)f) It has affiliated as an Overeaters Anonymous group by registering with the World Service Office.

Submitted By

Board of Trustees
Stephanie D.

Contact WSO for maker's contact information.

Intent

To ensure that groups present the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Preamble as part of their format so it is clear that they are Overeaters Anonymous groups.

Implementation

Update OA, Inc. Bylaws

Cost

None.

Rationale

Changing the definition of a group would ensure that groups include the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Preamble of Overeaters Anonymous as part of their format so it is clear they are Overeaters Anonymous groups and not another Twelve-Step fellowship.

More and more groups use formats which do not make it clear they are OA groups. They use AA material or none at all. Some do not collect a Seventh Tradition. This creates disharmony and hurts OA as a whole. This change would encourage more unity within the Fellowship.

History

2016 – Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V, Section 1 (paraphrased)

Remove virtual meetings definition. (Adopted)

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: 3
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

Status:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017
Proposed Amendment to the
Bylaws of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Subpart B

Motion

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart A, Article X – Dissolution by striking the following:

Current Wording

Article X – Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the Corporation to an organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, education, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the District Court of the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Proposed Wording

Article X – Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the Corporation to an organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, education, ~~religious~~, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the District Court of the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Submitted By

Arizona Serenity in the Desert IG, Region Three
Tori W.

Contact WSO for maker's contact information.

Intent

To remove “religious” as an acceptable type of organization for receipt of funds upon dissolution of OA.

Implementation

Update OA, Inc. Bylaws

Cost

None.

Rationale

According to the OA Preamble, "OA is not affiliated with any public or private organization, political movement, ideology, or religious doctrine." In order to maintain the all-inclusive atmosphere of OA we remain open to all religious approaches. Selecting a specific religious organization for receipt of funds upon dissolution would be in violation of this philosophy.

History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: 4
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

Status:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017
Proposed Amendment to the
Bylaws of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Subpart B

Motion

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 4 – Qualifications by striking and inserting the following:

Current Wording

Article IX – Board of Trustees
Section 4 – Qualifications

- a) Qualifications for trustee shall be:
 - 1) Seven years in the Fellowship;
 - 2) Five years of service beyond the group level;
 - 3) Attendance as a delegate to at least two World Service Business Conferences; and
 - 4) Five years of continuous recovery in Overeaters Anonymous as evidenced by:
 - i) five years of current continuous abstinence;
 - ii) current maintenance of a healthy body weight for at least two years; and
 - iii) emotional and spiritual growth as a result of incorporating into their lives the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as a new way of living.
- b) Qualifications for trustee must be met at the time the application for trustee is submitted to the WSO. Specifically, such trustee nominees must also have:
 - 1) Worked through all Twelve Steps;
 - 2) Declared themselves as practicing the Twelve Steps to the best of their ability;
 - 3) Declared themselves as committed to the Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous; and
 - 4) Affirmed these additional qualifications on their trustee application forms.

Proposed Wording

Article IX – Board of Trustees
Section 4 – Qualifications

- a) Qualifications for trustee shall be:
 - 1) Seven years in the Fellowship;
 - 2) Five years of service beyond the group level;
 - 3) Attendance as a delegate to at least two World Service Business Conferences; and
 - 4) Five years of continuous recovery in Overeaters Anonymous as evidenced by:
 - i) five years of current continuous abstinence;
 - ii) current maintenance of a healthy body weight for at least two years; and
 - iii) emotional and spiritual growth as a result of incorporating into their lives the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as a new way of living.
- b) Qualifications for trustee must be met at the time ~~the application for trustee is submitted to the WSO~~ of election. Specifically, such trustee nominees must also have:
 - 1) Worked through all Twelve Steps;
 - 2) Declared themselves as practicing the Twelve Steps to the best of their ability;
 - 3) Declared themselves as committed to the Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous; and
 - 4) Affirmed these additional qualifications on their trustee application forms.

Submitted By

Region One
Beverly M.

Contact WSO for maker's contact information.

Intent

To change the time the qualifications for trustee must be met from application date to election date.

Implementation

Update OA, Inc. Bylaws and trustee application form.

Cost

None.

Rationale

Changing this Article to require qualifications to be met “at the time of election” is in the spirit of the original intent that a member meets the qualifications for trustee (listed in 4a) before serving as a trustee. Particularly with regard to the “seven years in the Fellowship” requirement, using the application date is an unnecessary restriction that screens out nominees who would reach seven years between the January application date and the May election at WSBC. In effect, it makes the real requirement of “seven years and five months” in program rather than “seven years.”

As currently written, a nominee who reaches seven years in the Fellowship between the January application date and WSBC would not be eligible to stand for election at WSBC, but would be eligible to be appointed to the position by the BOT at that same WSBC. It is in the interest of the Fellowship that, whenever possible, qualified nominees stand for election, presenting themselves and answering questions from the delegates at WSBC.

Region One is bringing this motion because this bylaw has adversely affected us this year. Our affirmed trustee nominee will not be eligible by the application date, and therefore is unable to stand for election even though she will have seven years in the Fellowship before WSBC. Our region is facing the possibility of a vacancy being announced for our trustee position when we actually have a willing, qualified, affirmed nominee. This is an unintended consequence the way this bylaw is currently written.

Additionally, a regional nominee must go through their region process, depending on how and when a region nominates and then submits the application. This process can add an additional three to four months to the timeframe. Allowing requirements to be met at the time of election could be helpful to all regions.

History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: 5
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

Status:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017
Proposed Amendment to the
Bylaws of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Subpart B

Motion

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI – Intergroups, Section 4 – Functioning by inserting the following:

Current Wording

Article VI – Intergroups
Section 4 – Functioning

- a) Intergroups may conduct the business of their groups by any method they choose.
- b) With prior notice to all member groups, intergroups shall convene at least once a year for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
- c) An intergroup must be formally registered, along with its delegate information, thirty days prior to Conference opening to send delegates to the current Conference. (See Article X, Section 3c for qualifications and selection of delegates.)
- d) In order to deregister, an intergroup must submit a written request to the World Service Office, region chair, and region trustee.

Proposed Wording

Article VI – Intergroups
Section 4 – Functioning

- a) Intergroups may conduct the business of their groups by any method they choose.
- b) With prior notice to all member groups, intergroups shall convene at least once a year for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
- c) An intergroup must be formally registered, along with its delegate information, thirty days prior to Conference opening to send delegates to the current Conference. (See Article X, Section 3c for qualifications and selection of delegates.)
- d) In order to deregister, an intergroup must submit a written request to the World Service Office, region chair, and region trustee.
 - 1) Should an intergroup fail to send such a request, but is determined to no longer be operational, the region trustee has the authority to notify the World Service Office that the intergroup has been dissolved and to remove it from the WSO records.
 - 2) Determination that an intergroup is no longer operational will require:
 - i) Documentation of attempts made to contact the intergroup officers or meetings that were affiliated with the intergroup; and

Current Wording

Article VI – Intergroups
Section 4 – Functioning

Proposed Wording

Article VI – Intergroups
Section 4 – Functioning

- ii) The intergroup no longer has more than one affiliated group.

Submitted By

Barbara G., Region Seven Trustee

Contact WSO for maker's contact information.

Intent

To allow the region trustee to deregister a nonfunctioning intergroup where a written request to deregister has not been sent to the WSO, the region trustee, and the region chair.

Implementation

Update OA, Inc. Bylaws and trustee application form.

Cost

None.

Rationale

An intergroup that shops functioning will be unlikely to notify the WSO of this fact. Current bylaws require a written request be sent to the WSO, the region trustee, and the region chair before deregistration can be implemented. Repeated efforts to contact members of a nonfunctioning intergroup by the trustee and a region officer produced no response over a considerable period of time, but the intergroup could not be deregistered.

History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: 6
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

Status:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017
Proposed Amendment to the
Bylaws of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Subpart B

Motion

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Service Boards, Section 4 – Functioning by inserting the following:

Current Wording

Article VIII – Service Boards
Section 4 – Functioning

- a) Service boards shall conduct the business under the bylaws and policies established by their intergroups and groups.
- b) With prior notice to all member groups and intergroups, service boards shall convene at least once a year for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
- c) A service board must be formally registered, along with its delegate information, thirty days prior to Conference opening to send delegates to the current Conference. (See Article X, Section 3c for qualifications and selection of delegates.)
- d) In order to deregister, a service board must submit a written request to the World Service Office, and either the region chair and region trustee, or virtual services trustee, as applicable.

Proposed Wording

Article VIII – Service Boards
Section 4 – Functioning

- a) Service boards shall conduct the business under the bylaws and policies established by their intergroups and groups.
- b) With prior notice to all member groups and intergroups, service boards shall convene at least once a year for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
- c) A service board must be formally registered, along with its delegate information, thirty days prior to Conference opening to send delegates to the current Conference. (See Article X, Section 3c for qualifications and selection of delegates.)
- d) In order to deregister, a service board must submit a written request to the World Service Office, and either the region chair and region trustee, or virtual services trustee, as applicable.
 - 1) Should a service board fail to send such a request, but is determined to no longer be operational, the region or virtual services trustee has the authority to notify the World Service Office that the service board has been dissolved and to remove it from the WSO records.
 - 2) Determination that a service board is no longer operational will require:

Current Wording

Article VIII – Service Boards
Section 4 – Functioning

Proposed Wording

Article VIII – Service Boards
Section 4 – Functioning

- i) Documentation of attempts made to contact the service board officers or intergroups/ meetings that were affiliated with the service board; and
- ii) The service board no longer has more than one affiliated group.

Submitted By

Barbara G., Region Seven Trustee

Contact WSO for maker's contact information.

Intent

To allow the region or virtual services trustee to deregister a nonfunctioning service board where a written request to deregister has not been sent to the WSO, the region or virtual services trustee, and the region chair as appropriate.

Implementation

Update OA, Inc. Bylaws and trustee application form.

Cost

None.

Rationale

A service board that stops functioning will be unlikely to notify the WSO of this fact. Current bylaws require a written request be sent to the WSO, either the region trustee and the region chair, or the virtual services trustee before deregistration can be implemented.

History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: 7
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

Status:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017
Proposed Amendment to the
Bylaws of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Subpart B

Motion

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Service Boards, Section 2 – Composition by inserting the following:

Current Wording

Article VIII – Service Boards
Section 2 – Composition

- a) National service boards may be registered in countries outside the US and Canada in which the intergroup serves the entire country or the groups/intergroups within a country have formed a service board to serve the entire country. In cases in which there are common needs that exceed the boundaries of one country, the national service board may serve more than one country.
- b) Language service boards may be registered to serve common needs of a language group, regardless of geographic proximity.
- c) Virtual service boards may be registered to serve the needs of virtual groups.

Proposed Wording

Article VIII – Service Boards
Section 2 – Composition

- a) National service boards may be registered in countries outside the US and Canada in which the intergroup serves the entire country or the groups/intergroups within a country have formed a service board to serve the entire country. In cases in which there are common needs that exceed the boundaries of one country, the national service board may serve more than one country. In cases in which there are common needs from a virtual service board (about language) that exceed the boundaries of one country to the virtual world, the national service board may serve the groups from this virtual service board.
- b) Language service boards may be registered to serve common needs of a language group, regardless of geographic proximity.
- c) Virtual service boards may be registered to serve the needs of virtual groups. In countries with language needs, the groups from the virtual service board can affiliate with the national service board too.

Submitted By

CCA Online VSB
Junccab NSB, Region Eight
Dora P.

Contact WSO for maker's contact information.

Intent

In countries outside the US and Canada where the language is a barrier, virtual groups could form a virtual service group to work in the virtual world and these groups could affiliate with the national service board with the proposal of unity and attend conventions from this national service board using literature in their own language and being in unity with their country and have the same opportunity to be a virtual service board here we don't have a national service board.

Implementation

Update OA, Inc. Bylaws and trustee application form.

Cost

None.

Rationale

The purpose of a service board is to deal with issues that require a combination of membership and financial resources of intergroups and groups. In countries outside the US and Canada where the language is a barrier, virtual groups could form a virtual service group to work in the virtual world and these groups could affiliate with the national service board with the proposal of unity and attend conventions from this national service board using literature in their own language and being in unity with their country and have the same opportunity to be a virtual service board here we don't have a national service board.

This proposal comes because all intergroups from face-to-face meetings needs and can be registered in the WSO and the national service board (Article VIII – Service Boards, Section 3a and 3c).

Article VIII – Service Boards

Section 3 – Registration

- a) Each service board shall be duly registered with the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous by submitting:
 - 3) complete registration information on each of its affiliated groups and intergroups.
- c) The intergroups shall register separately with the World Service Office as defined in Article VI – Intergroups.

If an intergroup can register to the WSO and to the national service board, why can't a virtual service board have their groups registered with the WSO and with the national service board in these countries?

History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

Currently, the Find a Meeting database only allows for a group to affiliate with one intergroup or service board. If this motions passes, a redesign of the Find a Meeting database will be necessary to allow the groups from a VSB to also affiliate with a NSB. The total cost to redesign the database/reporting system on the backend and to update the forms on the front end is \$8,000.

Proposal Item: 8
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

Status:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017
Proposed Amendment to the
Bylaws of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Subpart B

Motion

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X – Meetings of Delegates, Section 1 – World Service Business Conference by striking and inserting the following:

Current Wording

Article X – Meetings of Delegates
Section 1 – World Service Business Conference

- a) Annual Meeting
The corporation shall sponsor an annual meeting of the delegates of the members, which shall be known as the World Service Business Conference (hereafter may be referred to as the “Conference”). The Conference shall serve as the collective conscience of the Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous as a whole.
- b) Time and Location
The annual Conference shall be held during the month of May or on such dates as the Board of Trustees may determine. The Conference shall be held in the Albuquerque, New Mexico area or at such place as the Board of Trustees may designate.

Proposed Wording

Article X – Meetings of Delegates
Section 1 – World Service Business Conference

- a) ~~Annual~~ Biennial Meeting
The corporation shall sponsor ~~an annual~~ a meeting of the delegates of the members, which shall be known as the World Service Business Conference (hereafter may be referred to as the “Conference”) occurring every other year. The Conference shall serve as the collective conscience of the Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous as a whole.
- b) Time and Location
The ~~annual~~ biennial Conference shall be held during the month of May or on such dates as the Board of Trustees may determine. The Conference shall be held in the Albuquerque, New Mexico area or at such place as the Board of Trustees may designate.

Submitted By

Connecticut IG, Region Six
Tom M.

Contact WSO for maker’s contact information.

Intent

To change the current requirement for an annual World Service Business Conference to an every other year Conference, in order to make it more affordable for service bodies having to fund delegates to attend and the World Service Office which expends significant funds to organize and host the Conferences each year.

Implementation

Update OA, Inc. Bylaws. Beginning in 2020, the World Service Business Conference would be held every other year thereafter. Proper and timely notice would have to be sent to all service bodies beforehand.

Cost

Unknown.

Rationale

Typically, fewer than half of all possible delegates to a WSBC attend each year probably because of the enormous cost of doing so. For many service bodies, the funding of WSBC representatives is the single largest expenditure in their annual budget. The proposal to make the WSBC a biennial (every two-years) event is driven by the following factors.

- a) Having the WSBC every year deprives the majority of intergroups and service boards from being able to afford to send delegates, while changing it to every two years would conceivably allow many more intergroups and service boards to send delegates as they could use two years of income to fund their delegates. For illustration, in 2015, 182 delegates attended and yet with approximately 6,400 registered groups worldwide, the total number of possible delegates would likely be in excess of 400.
- b) Having the WSBC every year is unnecessary. Trustees will still meet every quarter to ensure the day-to-day running of the business of Overeaters Anonymous is conducted, while committees can avail themselves of teleconferences and videoconferences in the interim to conduct their work efficiently. Decisions which truly require the input of delegates do not necessarily have to be made each year and can be reserved to any every other year meeting.
- c) Having the WSBC occur every other year rather than every year would help the WSO to become even stronger financially while lessening our financial dependence on literature sales. Each WSBC, the WSO spends over \$50,000 to organize the event and of this, only approximately 40 percent is returned to it as income in the form of delegate registrations. So, having every other year should increase the WSO's reserves by approximately 5.5 percent given its current reserves of approximately \$270,000.

History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

Per the State of New Mexico statute for Nonprofit Corporations 53-7B-10, Section 53-8-13 B:

Meetings of Members

- B) An annual meeting of the members shall be held at such time as may be provided in the bylaws. If the annual meeting is not held within any thirteen-month period, the district court may, on the application of any member, order a meeting to be held. However, failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the corporation.

The WSO managing director sought clarification on what qualifies as an annual meeting and received this statement from the WSO accounting firm.

“I do not see a legal requirement or an IRS requirement that a non-profit meet with their members annually. The Nonprofit Corporation Act is clear that you have to meet with the members annually. You do not need to have a conference each year. You may have a conference one year, and then send a general communication that the next year's annual meeting will be at the corporate headquarters (not a conference).”

The Board of Trustees would continue to meet in the month of May to conduct business, and reports would be filed, which would meet the requirement of the statute. Members would be notified of the dates of the meeting and would be welcome to attend. There would be no preparation, nor accommodations made for any such attendees.

Other items to consider if the meetings move to biennial:

- The election of trustees would not occur each year, and the current three-year term would need to be changed.
- Qualifications of candidates for trustee positions currently requires the candidate to have attended two WSBCs; therefore, the amount of time needed to acquire that time would be increased to four years at a minimum.
- Time required for approval of new literature would increase as it is done at Conference.
- Conference committees would be impacted as to length of service commitment.
- While there will be a savings with a biennial Conference, there may be an increase in the per year cost for lodging, meeting space, and food and beverage as in the past we have negotiated for three-year contracts, which allowed for better price negotiations.